



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas on the County Seal

The County of Los Angeles has a seal that is intended to respect our shared history. The San Gabriel Mission is a uniquely important part of Los Angeles County's heritage.

The 21 missions were essential to the founding of the State of California and County of Los Angeles. The placement of the San Gabriel Mission on the seal has not been the subject of controversy or public challenge, and I believe that is reflective of the broad acceptance of its historical relevance.

We live in a digital age where search engines and Wikipedia and other research tools are readily available at the touch of your phone, and even a simple search yields image after image of missions bearing a cross. If the County of Los Angeles has a seal that depicts its culture and heritage – past and present -- then I see no reason why we should homogenize its mission history.

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